"However, there are chiefs who favor consanguineous marriage as an aid in repopulating the island, and point to its success on Eauripik, a small isolated island east of Yap. There, they say, it worked.

So alien is this to most human experience, even among wild tribes, that I reserved a doubt on it until I could consult a recongnized authority on these islands, an old and respected Japanese trader, Miyashita, of Palau. During Spanish and German as well as Japanese times he has lived in the islands and is the only foreigner to have made his home for a year on Eauripik.

'I don't attempt to explain it,' he said, 'but it's true. The people of Eauripik are unusually big, strong, healthy people. They almost never become sick. Yet the entire population of 190 people is one family descended from one couple. All marriages are within the family. There is no mixture from the outside. Foreigners do not visit the island. It is off the usual trade routes. All the people look alike. Closest relatives marry. And yet the population is increasing slightly.'"